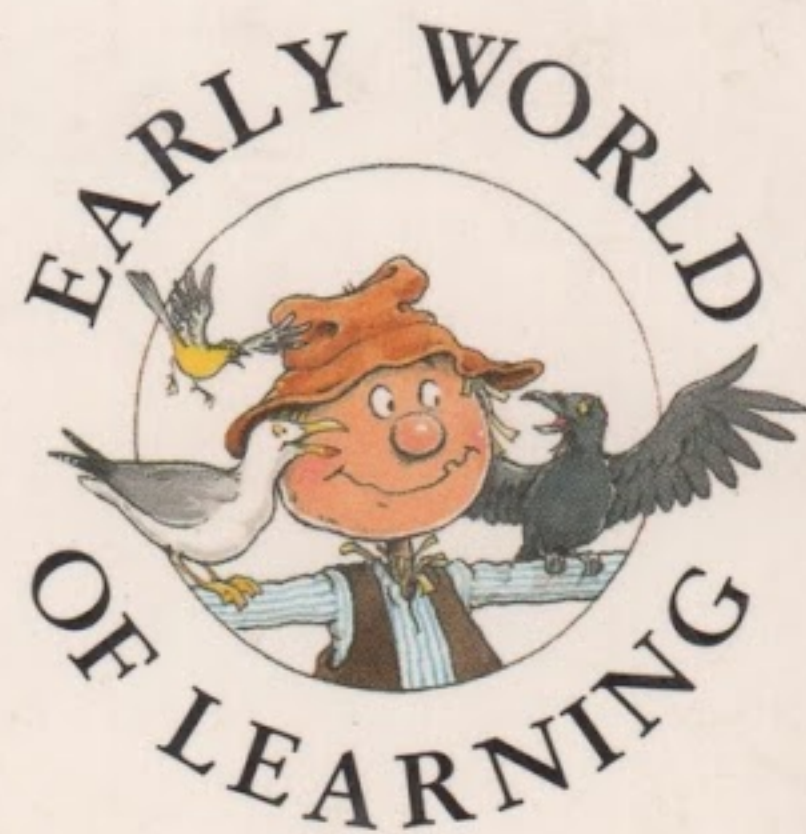

Learn about
TEXTURE





TEXTURE

Story by **Felicia Law**

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Shirley Tourret

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Signora Pittipatti shook the crumbs from the red check tablecloths and straightened the chairs.

Then she went inside the restaurant, and turned the sign to 'CLOSED'.

Lunchtime was over. The restaurants were all shut. Everyone was indoors resting in the cool.

"Come on," said Crow, "I'm hungry. It's time for our lunch now!"



Behind the restaurant was
a shady yard. Here
Signora Pittipatti hung the
washing.



Here she beat the carpets.

Here she chatted to her
neighbours.



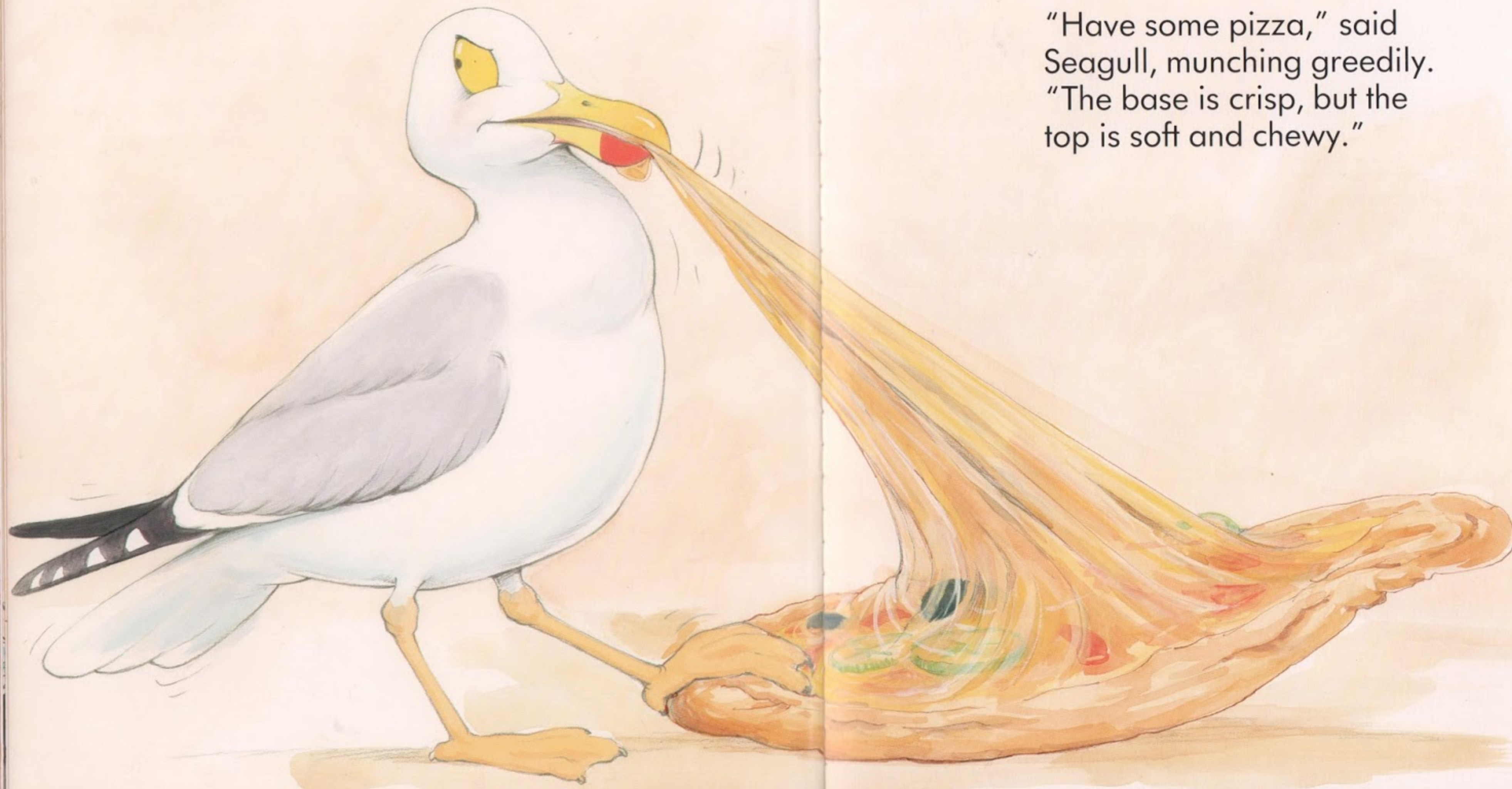
And it was here that she put
out the leftover food from
the kitchen to feed the birds.

"What a feast!" said
Wagtail excitedly. But
Poldy stared at the plates
of cold food glumly.



"Try a bread roll," said Wagtail, his beak covered in crumbs. "The crust is a bit rough and dry, but you can peck it until it's soft and crumbly."





"Have some pizza," said
Seagull, munching greedily.
"The base is crisp, but the
top is soft and chewy."



"The spaghetti's excellent,"
said Crow, tossing slippery
strands down his throat as if
they were long, wriggly
worms.

"Only a woodpecker could
eat this cheese," grumbled
Seagull. "It's too hard and
too dry."



"I much prefer this peach,"
said Seagull. "It's soft and
juicy!"



"Like the grapes,"
agreed Wagtail, who
really preferred to eat the
hard, crunchy seeds inside.



Poor Poldy. Before he
could even try any of the
leftover food, the birds had
gobbled every last crumb.

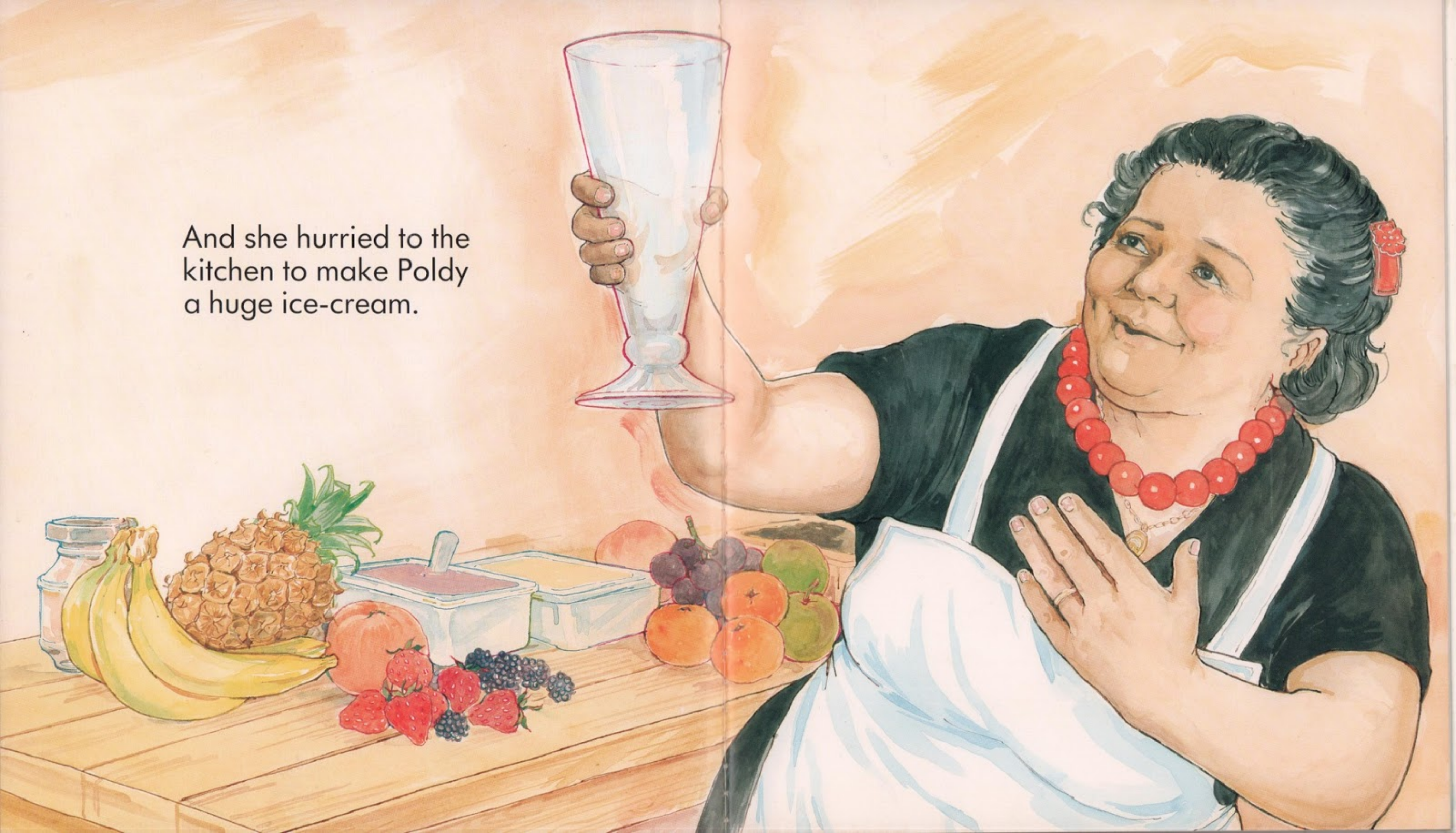




Just then, Signora Pittipatti
glanced out of the window.
"Poverino!" she cried, and
threw her hands in the air.
"Those greedy birds have
left nothing for you!"

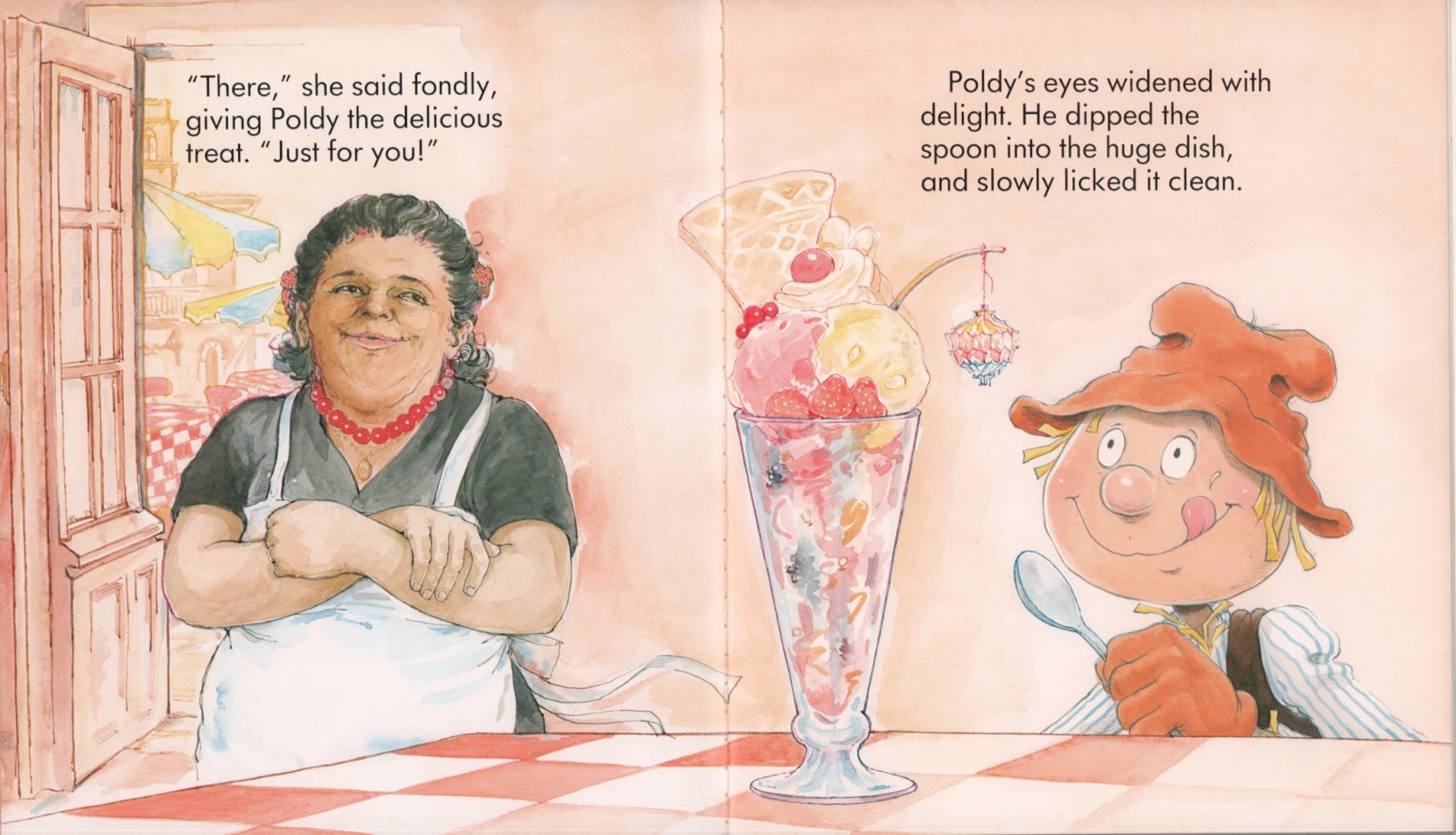


And she hurried to the kitchen to make Poldy a huge ice-cream.

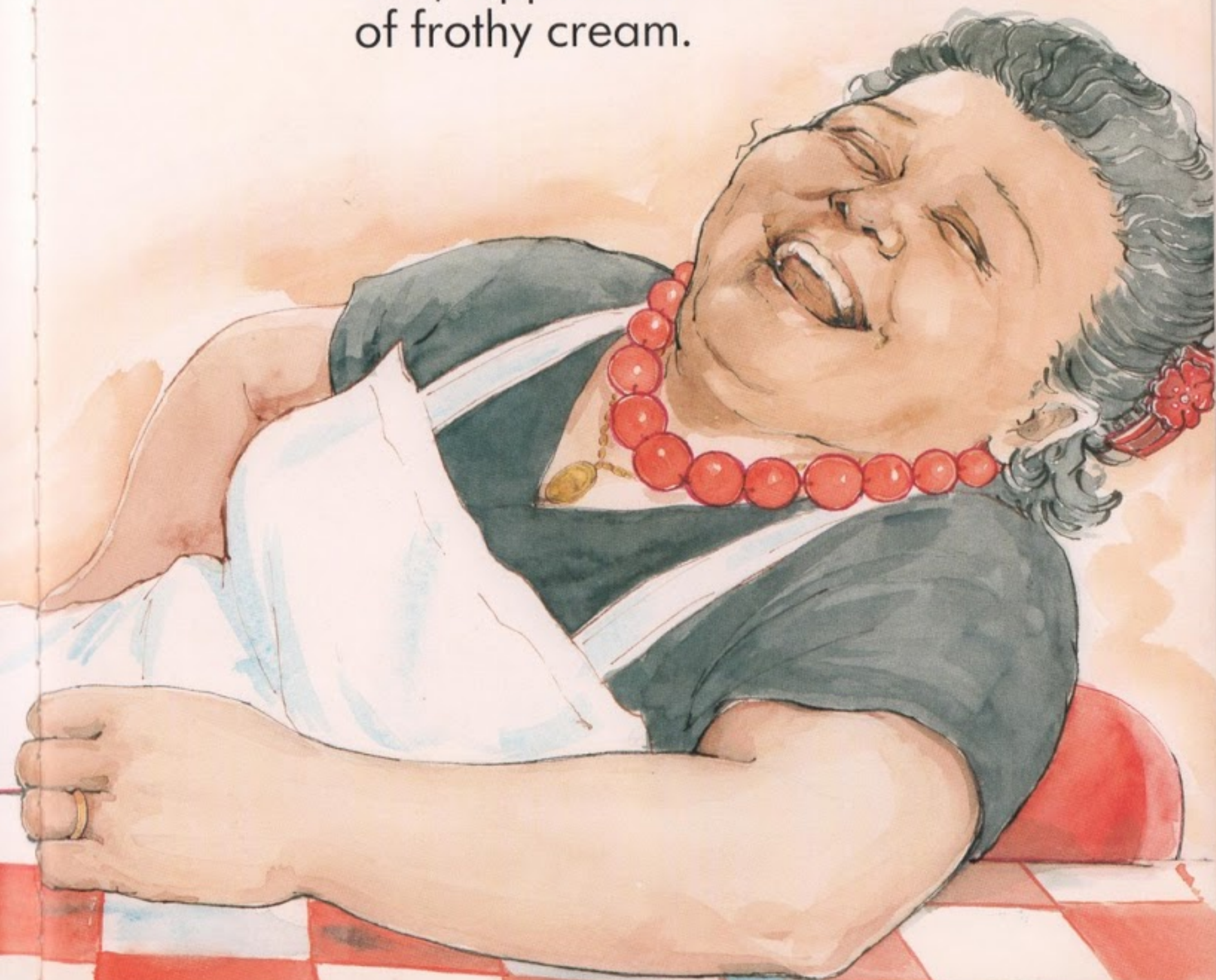


"There," she said fondly,
giving Poldy the delicious
treat. "Just for you!"

Poldy's eyes widened with
delight. He dipped the
spoon into the huge dish,
and slowly licked it clean.

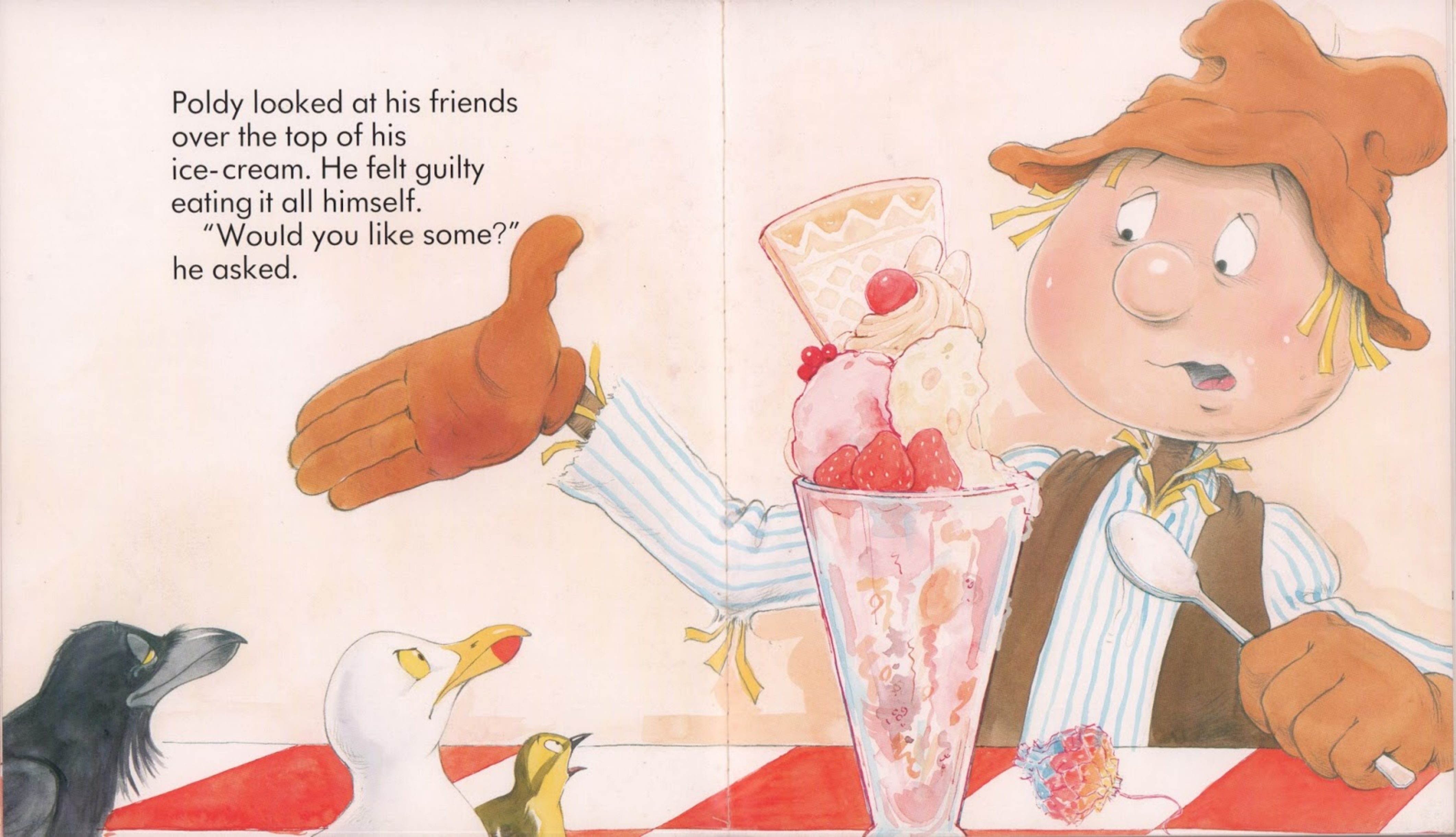


The ice-cream was cold –
and smooth – and creamy –
and filled with soft, chewy
cherries and crisp, crunchy
nuts, topped with a mountain
of frothy cream.



Poldy looked at his friends
over the top of his
ice-cream. He felt guilty
eating it all himself.

"Would you like some?"
he asked.



But Wagtail said he would
prefer a sip of cool, fresh
water.



Seagull said she never
ate food that was fattening.



And Crow had already
dozed off for his afternoon
siesta.



Let's feel smooth things



Let's feel rough things



Parent notes

As a parent, you will know that young children love to explore the world around them. From a very early age, your child will wish to pick up objects, touching and feeling them. Through exploring, children find out about the world for themselves. They discover textures long before they know the words to describe them.

In the **Texture** storybook, Poldy and his friends visit Signora Pittipatti's restaurant. Here, they feast on a selection of leftover food which Signora Pittipatti offers them. Each of the birds describes the food it is eating. These are the kinds of food which children will be familiar with.

The birds talk about their food using words to describe texture – rough, dry, crumbly, soft, cold, crisp, chewy, slippery, wriggly, hard, juicy, crunchy, smooth, creamy. All these are words which your child will enjoy hearing and repeating.

All about texture

What did Crow eat that was slippery?

Can you remember what food was soft and juicy?

What food did Seagull eat that was crisp and soft and chewy?

Poldy had some food that was cold and smooth and creamy – what was it?

What did Wagtail eat that was rough and dry?

All about food

Have you ever eaten an ice-cream?

Was it hot or cold?

Can you describe a peach?

Is it hard or soft?

Can you think of a crunchy food?

Do you know what a pizza is?

Learning together

As you read through the story with your child, try to provide different textures for you both to experience and discuss. Here are some activities which you may like to share with your child:

Make collections of materials that your child can handle and feel. You may like to try to match textures introduced in the book, such as smooth or rough, with other objects.

Ask your child to describe the different materials to you. Compare each one with another material which is similar or very different. You can make this into a game by making a 'feely box'. Put all the materials into a cardboard box which has a small hole in the top, just large enough for your child to put a hand through. You can ask your child to guess which material they are feeling.

Compare the textures inside your home with the textures outside. Another game you can play is a texture hunt. Give your child a texture word to hunt for in the house or garden. Look for something prickly or something silky. Encourage your child to introduce their own texture words.

When you are out walking together, try to describe your route using texture words.

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